



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **An OT Assistive Device Loan Service helps palliative care patients with cancer stay living at home.**

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#### **Keywords:**

Assistive device

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#### **Introduction**

The OT Assistive Device Loan Service (OT ADLS) was commenced in 1999 in the Department of Occupational Therapy with the support from the Department of Clinical Oncology of Queen Mary Hospital. This specific service aims to facilitate palliative care patients with cancer to live at home with better quality of life, reduce the risk of complications and minimize caregivers' burden.

#### **Objectives**

To review the utilization of the assistive device loan service, examine the types of devices that benefit our patients and evaluate the usefulness of the service.

#### **Methodology**

A three-year review of the utilization of the OT ADLS was conducted from January 2013 to December 2015. The number of patients received the service and the total numbers of transactions were captured. The types of devices lent were analyzed. A survey was conducted to collect feedback from the frontline nurses on the loan service.

#### **Result**

Among the 127 cancer patients who had received the loan service, 63 (49%) were in-patients preparing for discharge home and 64 (51%) were outpatients living at home. A total of 223 transactions were recorded in this period. The assistive devices included – bathing and toileting tools (31%), pressure relieving devices (30%), transfer and positioning equipment (22%) and aids for caring of the bed ridden patients (17%). These devices served significant functions in: - preventing complications such as pressure sore, and aspiration while eating in bed for the severely ill bed-ridden patients; - relieving the manual handling by the caregivers on assisting patients to transfer; and - most importantly preserving patient's dignity by achieving independence in activities of daily living, especially in personal hygiene. Survey of the frontline nurses found that the loan service helped all of them in patient's discharge plan; played an important role for palliative care patients living at home; and they were very satisfied with the loan service. To conclude, both the patients and healthcare staff benefit from the OT Assistive Device Loan Service.